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# AMAA NEWS

THE ARMENIAN MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC.  
140 FOREST AVENUE, PARAMUS, NEW JERSEY 07652

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VOLUME XIII NO. 1

January/February 1979

This publication combines the former "A.M.A.A. Newsletter" and the "Armenian/American Outlook"

## DEDICATED

## TO MISS PHILIBOSIAN

*Dr. Chopourian, Executive Director of  
AMAA, escorting benefactor Miss Ruth  
Philibosian to the podium.*



*Dr. Chopourian*  
*35*

## AWAKENING THE CONSCIENCE OF THE WORLD

by G.H. Chopourian



G.H. Chopourian, Editor

"Well," said one of the three brothers, "someone has got to awaken the conscience of the world." We would think the sentence would be spoken by a clergyman. In reality, it comes to us from an entirely unexpected source—from the rock musician group, The BeeGees.

The Gibb Brothers were on a morning T.V. talk show when they were questioned about their wealth. The brothers confirmed they were high up in the financial bracket, "although we are perhaps not the highest earners," one of them chimed in. They also acknowledged that they write modern music

and introduce novelties gradually and subtly, not to make it look too revolutionary. But they assured the listeners they do bring about changes, however imperceptibly. Did they bring about changes in the world's life style? "Sure!" was the unwavering answer. "We give very generously to charities and perform for the support of charities." Recently, they joined many artists to provide free performance for UNICEF's "The International Year of the Child."

Their one amazing remark was, when asked why they performed for so many charities, "Well, someone has got to awaken the conscience of the world." I have no idea of the background of the BeeGees, except that from their speech I know they are of English extraction. However, I do not need to know much more about their background since I sense they are protagonists to awaken the conscience of humanity. "The Church," they challenged, "has enormously large amounts of money and they don't do much with it—they don't seem to face the needs of humanity fundamentally. The Church of England," they went on to say, "and the Catholic Church have large amounts of wealth. By the same token many, many people in the world have much unused wealth and they do not know what to do with it. Why should those monies go to waste?"

They desire to be in the tradition of doing something to awaken the conscience of humanity.

The Armenian Missionary Association has been in that business for sixty years. It has a "petite" program for the year 1979 which can awaken the conscience of a large number of our families. The Association has just had a 60th Anniversary Campaign and Celebrations and determined that 1979 will be the "Year of the Armenian Child." We should like to establish a *Children's Crusade Fund* and use the income year by year for Armenian children in need wherever they may be. To that end we will be sending coin banks to children and their families to challenge them to fill the banks with their nickels, dimes and quarters and send the coin banks or the equivalent value of the coins to the offices of the AMAA before Thanksgiving Day so that on Thanksgiving Sunday, November 18th, we may consecrate those gifts and establish a *Children's Crusade Fund*.

Use the coin banks as a family endeavor. May those coin banks become the basis for a superb training for conscience awakening for the needs of others.

## THIS ISSUE DEDICATED TO MISS RUTH PHILIBOSIAN

—The Editor

This issue of the AMAA NEWS is being dedicated to Miss Ruth Philibosian for more than one reason.

She has been a great benefactor to the Armenian people, making her charitable gifts through the Armenian Missionary Association of America. She has provided the children in schools with toys, learning tools, pencils, coloring books, etc.; supplied funds for welfare of people in need and trouble; rendered selfless service by giving of her free time for teaching in our schools; assisted in the construction of school buildings, the most prominent of which is the Yeprem and Martha Philibosian Armenian Evangelical College in Beirut. Here in the U.S., she made possible the construction of a new headquarters for the AMAA in Paramus.

Above and beyond all that, Miss Philibosian has loved the AMAA like the apple of her eye. She thought of the Association's benefit; prayed for it; took part in the decision-making process in the Board, in the Executive Committee, and in numerous standing committees of the Association. Few can capsule the number of hours and days that she has put into the workings of the AMAA over the past 35 years.

But above all, she is a person of sterling character, charitable, loving, sensitive and concerned. She has wanted nothing but the healthy, happy and fulfilling development of children with whom she worked all her life in New York, overseas in Lebanon, as well as in the schools of the Armed Forces.

In dedicating this issue to the great lady, we in the AMAA are only providing a symbolic expression of our gratitude to her.

We salute her.

## ONE MILLION DOLLAR ANONYMOUS DONOR DISCLOSED

by G.H. Chopourian

At the AMAA's Sixtieth Anniversary Banquet, sponsored by the Armenian Evangelical Church of New York and the Armenian Presbyterian Church of Paramus, New Jersey, and held at the Cresskill Tammy Brook Country Club on Sunday evening, September 10, 1978, the anonymous donor of \$1,000,000 was disclosed by Mr. George Philibosian, who is the International Chairman of the AMAA Sixtieth Anniversary Campaign Steering Committee. Mr. Philibosian, after cryptically reviewing the salient characteristics and services of the donor, announced: "Ladies and Gentlemen,

it is my great pleasure and honor at this time to ask the Rev. Dr. Chopourian to kindly escort this unique person to the dais, so that we can all pay our tribute of due gratitude and respect to a person who can be such an example to us all... A PERSON NONE OTHER THAN MISS RUTH PHILIBOSIAN."

The announcement won for the unpretentious Miss Philibosian a standing ovation.

Miss Philibosian was most reluctant to make the donation public, and, in fact, assigned the donation as an addition to

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## The Inspirational Corner

### PASTORAL REFLECTIONS

by Vartkes M. Kassouni

My reflections this month are on the Armenian Missionary Association of America. This month, we in the Los Angeles area celebrate its 60th Anniversary with a gala banquet on the 18th. It has been in my mind for this reason and also because I have just written a letter of protest to the editor of a weekly paper which published an article ridiculing the AMAA and its "Ellis Island Remembered" project.

Far from deserving negative comments and ridicule, the AMAA truly deserves our full support and praise, for it has come a long way since the year 1918, bringing along with it an innumerable number of our people on the upward climb from suffering to joy, from illiteracy to culture, from disease to health, from spiritual darkness to the abundant life in Christ.

It is no hidden fact that the AMAA is the missions and social service organization of the Armenian Evangelicals within the U.S.A. and throughout the world. We are a minority of less than 5% of the Armenian people throughout the world. It is for this reason, and also because we are considered a maverick and non-conformist people, in terms of religious and ecclesiastical affiliation, that the accomplishments of the Evangelicals are largely ignored.

The AMAA is no tool of any political or partisan segment within our community. It is even free from the ecclesiastical manipulations of any or all churches which support it fully, for it was the Armenian Evangelical Union in the year 1918 that organized it for the specific purpose of meeting the emergency needs of our people following the dark years of World War I. However, it remains sensitive to the issues which involve both the churches and the people. It is an arm of service, willingly dispensing hundreds of thousands of dollars within a score of countries.

The AMAA is a shining example of obedient fulfillment of our churches and our people to the mandate given by our Lord when He said, "Go out into the world and share the Good News." We cannot be called Evangelical without this kind of a program. The Armenian churches abandoned early in their history such missionary outreach. It remained for the Evangelicals within the body of the Armenian people to rediscover this element of our corporate calling and to help individual churches set up actual mission programs. So it is that thousands of dollars go out every year from our churches for service, not only through the AMAA but all kinds of missions organizations. This is noteworthy!

I pray that God will bless the AMAA and that it may be equipped increasingly by spiritual and physical resources to

continue to do a mighty work for Christ, all Armenian people, and the whole world as well.

From the UACC "Herald"

### A.M.A.A. — A RAINBOW

by H.M. Missirlian

In 1967, I visited Soviet Armenia for the first time. Three thousand years of history of my people flashed across my fiery imagination. I wanted to talk to Mt. Ararat. I wanted to talk to the River Arax. I wanted to search the depths of valleys and of Lake Sevan. I wanted these everlasting silent witnesses to tell me about the hopes and dreams, sorrows and joys, tears and laughter, life, death, burial and resurrection of my people. I was standing in Victory Park, a light rain was falling on the sprawling capitol city of Yerevan stretched out below my feet. Suddenly I saw a rainbow arched from Mt. Ararat to Mt. Aragats across the Araratian plains. I thought of Noah's rainbow. After the floods subsided God said to Noah, "Never again will a flood destroy the earth. As a sign of my promise I am putting my rainbow in the clouds. Whenever I cover the sky with clouds and the rainbow appears, I will remember my promise..." Gen. 9:12-15 Good News). That promise has never failed. The rainbow has appeared again and again reflecting the light beyond the clouds.

The dark clouds, the hurricanes and the fires of 1915-1918 darkened the sky of the Armenian people. We went through a great bloodbath but a rainbow appeared in 1918—the Armenian Missionary Association of America. The immigrant Armenian Evangelical Churches in U.S.A. joined hands and with compassionate heart formed the A.M.A.A. to be the hand of mercy to our people, to heal the sick, to bind the wounds of the afflicted, to build new churches and schools, and to help in the rejuvenation of our deadly stricken people. For 60 years that helping hand has been stretched out with love to our people in the name of Christ. For 60 years, we have continued to believe that rejuvenation and revitalization is incomplete without spiritual rebirth unless our people's life is undergirded with the power of the Risen Lord.

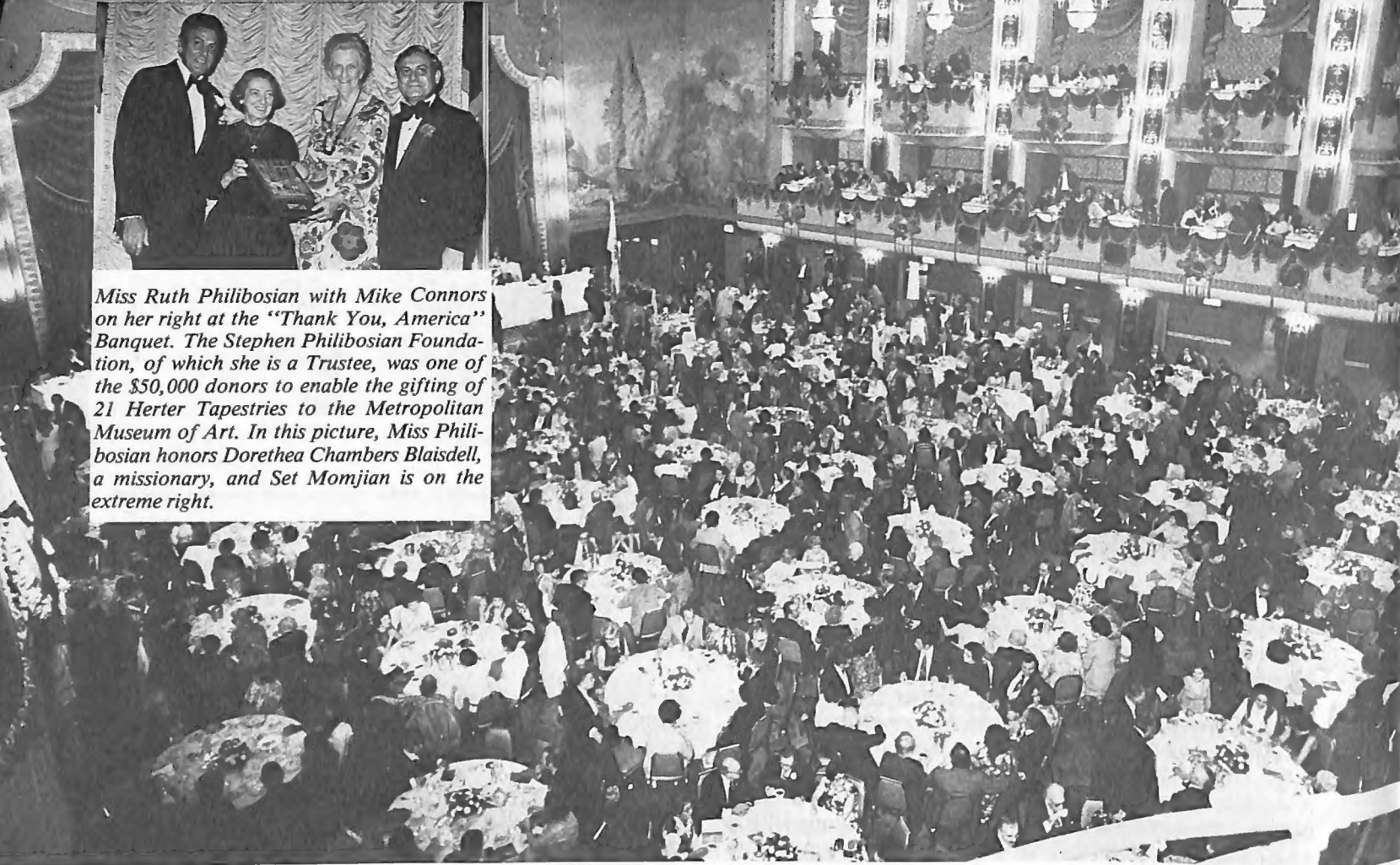
Once more the dark clouds have appeared in Beirut and soon to reappear, perhaps, this time in Iran. There are many pleading eyes looking at us. There are many bleeding hearts to be healed but thank God we have a rainbow—the Armenian Missionary Association. We are concerned. We care, therefore, we share. I have seen the rainbow, I will not despair.

From the PACC "Pilgrim's Progress"





Miss Ruth Philibosian with Mike Connors on her right at the "Thank You, America" Banquet. The Stephen Philibosian Foundation, of which she is a Trustee, was one of the \$50,000 donors to enable the gifting of 21 Herter Tapestries to the Metropolitan Museum of Art. In this picture, Miss Philibosian honors Dorethea Chambers Blaisdell, a missionary, and Set Momjian is on the extreme right.

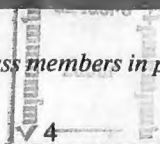


A shot of the 1500 attendance at the "Thank You, America" Banquet.



Miss Ruth Philibosian with her cheerful class members in public school 59 of Manhattan.

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the Siroon and Kaloust Aijian Endowment Fund as an esteem to her beloved late sister and sister's late husband. It was only because it was demonstrated to her that the revelation would most certainly inspire others to make serious commitments to the Association that she was convinced to accept disclosure of her name.

As a token of appreciation for the princely gift, the Association presented Miss Ruth Philibosian, on the evening of the Banquet, with a medallion in pure gold, as pure as her own heart, which was the replica of the seal of the AMAA with the following caption engraved on the back of the medallion:

To  
RUTH PHILIBOSIAN

A great lady  
In appreciation  
AMAA

Sept. 10, 1978

Deeply touched by the presentation of the gold medallion and chain, which was placed around her neck by Mr. George Philibosian (no relation), Moderator of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America and International Chairman of the AMAA Sixtieth Anniversary Campaign, Miss Philibosian was obviously overwhelmed by the demonstration of love. She hesitated a few seconds and then spoke: "When I was a little girl, my mother told me not to talk with my mouth full. Right now, my heart is in my mouth." Continuing, she told the listening audience, "I once read an article telling of a poll that was conducted to find out how people decided to which organization they should make their contributions. Many of the people who were interviewed stated that it was somewhat difficult to decide. But for me it was no problem at all. On top of my list was the AMAA. I know of no organization that is so far-reaching in its services to the needy. I am aware of this not only by virtue of being a Board member for many years, but I have been witness to its many acts of benevolence in many lands that I have visited."

It was in pursuance of the Philibosian tradition of philanthropy that Miss Ruth Philibosian made this large monetary pledge to the Armenian Missionary Association of America on the occasion of its Sixtieth Anniversary Celebrations.

The charitable instincts of Miss Philibosian were sharpened at home. It was the exemplary and sacrificial life of her parents, flowing from Christian stewardship principles. Miss Philibosian relates an incident which demonstrates the parent's influence: "When I was a little girl, I went to my father one day and said 'Father, every girl in my class at school has a wrist watch. I want one too.' At that time my brother was a struggling young man, supporting our family, and money was hard to come by. My father answered me, 'I have no money for a wrist watch for you. When you get married, let your husband buy you one.' A few weeks later my father received a letter from his friend, that saintly Badveli Geuvkalajian, the minister of the church in Mersin. In his letter Badveli wrote, 'In my church I have the blind, the lame, the widows and orphans. If only I could do more for them and meet their needs.' My father, who had refused me a watch on grounds of unavailability of money, somehow found money to send to Badveli. It was then I learned charity is a virtue of the heart and not of the hand."

Miss Ruth Philibosian, the youngest of Yeprem and Martha Philibosian's four children, was born in Tarsus, city of



Siroon and Kaloust Aijian with children Karl and Elizabeth (now Monroe) and Richard, youngest of the Aijians. Ruth Philibosian has assigned her One Million Dollar pledge for incorporation in the Siroon & Kaloust Aijian Endowment Fund.



Miss Philibosian in her student days at Emory University.



Miss Philibosian while in the Women's Army Corps.



Miss Philibosian responding to the recognition by the presentation of a medallion.





Head Table Guests: Ambassador Set Momjian (left), George Philibosian, Archie Cherkezian, Attorney Albert Momjian and Dr. G.H. Chopourian flank Miss Ruth Philibosian.



Mr. G. Philibosian, on behalf of the AMAA, honors Miss Philibosian with a gold medallion.



The Rev. Zenas Ilanjian (left) extending appreciation to his parishioner, Miss Ruth Philibosian, for her generosity.



Miss Ruth Philibosian proudly displaying medallion presented to her by the AMAA. At the dais from left to right: Set Momjian, George Philibosian, our Miss Ruth, Archie Cherkezian, Albert Momjian and Dr. G.H. Chopourian.

New Testament fame. After her early schooling in Syracuse and Auburn, New York, the family moved to Atlanta, Ga. where she graduated from high school. Her desire to attend college overcame her father's objections who was afraid college would "take the fear of the Lord out of her," and she started with one year at "The Castle," a finishing school near New York and then on to Emory University where she earned her B.A. degree. After teaching one year in Atlanta, she attended Teachers' College of Columbia University where she received her M.A. She desired to teach in New York City. Before qualifying, however, she was required to pass the Board of Education examinations. Of the approximate 1,000 participants, only 82 passed with Ruth 17th on the list.

In the interim, with the U.S.'s involvement in World War II, she felt strongly about serving the nation which had been so good to her family. Just prior to her induction in the WAC she received a teaching assignment in Public School 61 in New York City, news that she was awaiting for two years. She chose to serve her country first.

Miss Philibosian, a person of wide experience, has contributed much to the AMAA work by being on its Board of Directors and Executive Committee for more than fifteen years on which Boards she is now Honorary Life Member. She was in the Women's Army Corps of the United States during World War II. She has taught during most of her lifetime. She is one of those few Armenian ladies who has attended finishing school in her earlier days, which has added charm and beauty to her language and personality. She has the unusual ability of charming people with her fluency of language and pleasant personality.

Miss Philibosian applied her heart to charitable things in many ways. After her discharge from the army and a year of teaching in New York City, she went to Beirut to teach as a volunteer in the Armenian Evangelical Schools there. It was a labor of love. She recounts: "During my two years of teaching in the Middle East, and subsequent visits, I visited all the schools, The Home for the Blind, The Birds' Nest, The Old People's Home, The Armenian National Sanatorium and many needy families and individuals. Though I was always greeted warmly, seeing the pathetic old people, the ragged bare-foot children clapping their hands to welcome me, I felt very humble and emotions often gave way to tears."

She was inspired and motivated to do her utmost for needy Armenians. Noting the deficiencies of Armenian schools from the very beginning of her visits to Beirut, Miss Philibosian began to envision a high school that would be outstanding in physical structure and academic quality. Through her extreme magnanimity, that vision became a reality when a seven story new building was constructed for the First Armenian Evangelical Church College (called so because in addition to having a Kindergarten, Elementary and High School, it had a class equivalent to first year college). The large and beautiful new high school building was named after her parents as the YEPREM AND MARTHA Philibosian Armenian Evangelical College. She attributes her humanitarian acts to the influence of her parents. "In the haven of my heart, my beloved parents," she addresses them, "are all the beautiful lessons you taught me when I was a little child. Now may those beautiful lessons be taught to other little children."

The Philibosian name is proverbial, both in the U.S. and overseas. Mr. Stephen Philibosian, Ruth's brother, was instrumental in creating a large number of educational buildings in the Middle East and has come to be known as an outstanding Armenian benefactor. Miss Philibosian's charitable outlook matches that of her brother upon whom she looked as a father and treated him with respect and honor. An instance of such a proverbial action was the joint contribution made for the construction of the headquarters of the AMAA towards which she pledged \$100,000. In recognition a scroll and a plaque were presented in March, 1973, the content of the latter reading: "The Armenian Missionary Association of America is deeply grateful to MR. STEPHEN PHILIBOSIAN AND MISS RUTH PHILIBOSIAN for their gift of these beautiful Headquarters of the charitable organization."



Sylvia Kutchukian and Ruth Philibosian share a moment of mutual joy.

Miss Philibosian has always held the Armenian Missionary Association to be her preferred charitable organization and has loved, cherished, and promoted it in hundreds of ways.

Why has Miss Philibosian chosen the AMAA as the conduit of her charitable endeavors? Here is the answer in her own words: "The work of the AMAA in the education field is well known. But there are many social conditions to be met. To the needy Armenians overseas, there is no Relief Society, no Welfare Agency, no Pension Plans, no Social Security. None of these exist. The calls for help are many: an elderly retired teacher whose income was never sufficient to save for later years, the brilliant mind of a young man who gives promise to be a benefactor to our people if given the opportunity to receive a college education, hot lunches for under-nourished children, a young man preparing for the ministry, a young widow with small children. When the darkness gathers, the Armenian Missionary Association is a house of light, and no one knocks on the door without being heard, for we are indeed our brother's keeper."

"Behind all this outreach, stands the untiring Executive Director of the Association, the Rev. Dr. G.H. Chopourian. The fine work he is doing, his deep dedication, and his utter sincerity that wins over people has earned my high esteem. It was based on a strong trust in him, his careful management and stewardship that made it easier for me to make the determination for a donation."



Mr. George Philibosian (no relation) unveiling the plaque commemorating the gift of the AMAA Headquarters by Miss Ruth Philibosian and her distinguished benefactor brother Stephen.

Miss Philibosian's Christian philosophy can be understood more deeply from a statement of hers: "Thomas Jefferson, perhaps the wisest of our Founding Fathers, said, 'I deem it the duty of every man to devote a certain portion of his income for charitable purposes, and that it is his further duty to see it so applied as to do the most good.' This would appear even more obvious, she went on, if we consider that our estate is as much a gift of God as our eyes and our hands. Our sense of morality bids us use our eyes and hands not only for pleasure. So it is with our estate."

Her involvements in charitable support of Armenians in the Middle East, with two years of Volunteer service as teacher, the second year at Haigazian College, make her a person of such largesse of heart that it is a privilege to have her as the FRIEND OF THE AMAA. When Miss Philibosian and the Executive Director were attending a recent Haigazian College Trustee meeting in Los Angeles (August 25-26, 1978), she listened to all the serious needs the leaders stated the Haigazian College had. Whereupon she passed a short note to the Executive Director which read: "When I hear about all the needs, I feel very happy that I made a contribution that will help to meet those needs." She has appreciated the AMAA for its work in the field of education and has commented:

"Perhaps the finest project of the AMAA is in the field of education, an area that is especially dear to me. Like a seed, which expands from within by its own power, so it is with children, and because child by child we build a nation, the AMAA is giving to hundreds of children the priceless gift of



Ruth at Haigazian College with the late George Mardikian and Acting President, Dr. Edward Hart (left).



education. But schools need adequate buildings, equipment and teaching aids. In a small village, I visited a school which was a dug-out basement that the community hoped would later become a church. It was so cold and damp that the children wore coats—shabby clothing too large or too small for their shivering bodies, over-size, half worn-out shoes, with no stockings to protect their tender feet. Crude benches to sit on and the room almost lacking of any equipment, with only one book in the teacher's hand. And we, in America, worry that our children might develop a complex if they don't have sufficient toys.

"In Aleppo I visited the workshop of the blind. It was a small room in a run-down building, but it provided a place where they made brooms and baskets and other small articles. They were told a guest would visit them; as I entered they stood up and greeted me with smiles. A young girl read in Braille a speech of welcome, and gave a short account of their work. She concluded her talk by praising God and giving thanks for all His blessings. They—with their affliction! My heart filled with compassion and I knew I could not touch the margin of their spirit of thankfulness. I felt that I, who have sight, was more sightless than they. There is no magic touch whereby we can heal their sick bodies, but we can give them medical relief that will lighten their longing for a stronger body. We cannot give sight to those carrying sticks in their hands, sticks that tap out the blind tattoo along the sunhardened trails of the old cities. But we can give them shelter and a means to earn a living.

"In spite of the severe poverty and many obstacles, I found the Armenians making the most of their surroundings. During my first year in Beirut, I was on a bus trip over a country road. I looked at the valley below and saw about a hundred white structures, like little shoe boxes. I asked what place it was and was told it was Anjar, an Armenian Community. The first opportunity I had, I visited Anjar and asked questions. I was told it was land given by the French to Armenian war refugees. The small white constructions were one room huts built by the limited supply of cement that had been allocated to each family. It was a barren, mountainous area. Water was brought to the homes from a centrally located water pump.

"Fourteen years later I revisited Anjar and what a change I saw! There were small stores doing business, fruit trees planted near every home, several chicken farms, and some homes had added a second room. The school, which was used as a church on Sundays, was completed with funds from friends in America. A certain philanthropist in America had recently built a lovely parsonage for the minister in Anjar.

"There are so many ways to be involved—sponsoring one or more children for their education, adding a room to an over-crowded school, hot lunches for undernourished children, Christmas remembrances to the elderly and the blind, and for Haigazian College a Chair of Science or Mathematics, bearing the name of the donor."

Miss Philibosian's understanding of the purposes and hopes of the Armenian Missionary Association is pungently expressed in these glowing and complimentary words: "I envision the Armenian Missionary Association to be a power-house that generates the necessary energy to carry out its mission work. The AMAA is essential for the survival of Armenian communities the world over. It creates a sense of close bond among all Armenians, and it must be built up for the benefit of our posterity."

This narration would be incomplete without the testimony of the Reverend Zenas Ilanjian, her pastor at the Armenian Evangelical Church of New York, who writes:

*"I have admirably known Ruth for thirty-one years as a colleague, as one of my closest friends, and, for the last three years, as a very special parishioner. Whatever her capacity or connection, one Christian grace in her outshines many others, namely — her genuine dedication and profound understanding of Christian service. As a meticulous educator, she has educated herself, beyond ordinary measures, in the Christian excellence of giving. Ruth is highly sensitive to Evangelical life and needs and has been regally supportive of our institutions; she does not look upon misery from an exalted position of personal opulency, as she has amazingly directed herself of all personal glory to enter, in all simplicity, into the human experience she strongly feels she has a mission to ameliorate. If we had five dedicated persons like her, I think, our organizations would be saved!"*



The late Mr. S. Philibosian receiving a bouquet of flowers on one of his trips to the Middle East.



The annual contribution of the Stephen Philibosian Foundation for Haigazian College being presented to Dr. G.H. Chopourian by Mrs. Joseph H. Stein, Jr. and Miss Ruth Philibosian, Trustees of S.P.F., at the joint meeting of the Haigazian College Board of Trustees and Board of Managers in Los Angeles.

## THE GERTMENIANS CELEBRATE GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

### Gertmenian Children Hosts

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Gertmenian celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary with a gala banquet reception on September 15, 1978 at Hs. Lordship-Marina in Berkeley. Over 150 relatives and friends were present to commemorate the occasion which was hosted by the three Gertmenian children, Paul, Albert and Grace. Dr. Paul Gertmenian called upon various relatives and long-time friends to express themselves. In this way, the guests shared the many precious and recountable moments in the lives of Henry and Eunice Gertmenian.



Mr. & Mrs. Henry Gertmenian at their Golden Wedding Anniversary Celebration.

The Armenian Missionary Association of America, which organization Henry and Eunice have loved, cherished, worked for and supported, sent the following cable on this occasion:

**On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Armenian Missionary Association of America, we congratulate you on the occasion of your Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary and to wish you continued health and happiness for many more years.**

**The AMAA gratefully remembers you both as persons fully committed to the ideals and goals of the Association and for the services you render to its ongoing work — your spirit, contributions and leadership to the schools to which it renders assistance, from kindergarten to Haigazian College, the shining star of our educational institutions, to the poor and handicapped and to those in need of spiritual nurture.**

**We appreciate everything you have done particularly because you consider the AMAA to be very important in your lives.**

**May the blessings of God be with you and upon you now and evermore.**

Mrs. Eunice Gertmenian has for many years acted as the Chairperson for the Oakland area Chapter, inspiring surrounding Armenian residents to provide for the multi-faceted projects and endeavors of the AMAA abroad and at home. She continues to serve in that capacity faithfully and productively.

Mr. Henry Gertmenian, prominent rug merchant and beloved of all the

Armenian sectors in the U.S., has served the Association in many capacities. He has been member of the Board of Directors, serving numerous three-year terms, and the Chairman of the California District Committee when it was first established in 1948. He continued to be Chairman for many years and when not in that capacity he served as member of the District Committee reporting very faithfully results at the Annual meetings of the Association. He also acted as Treasurer of the California District Committee from 1952 to 1966.

Few know the extensive services of this humble man to the Armenian Missionary Association and to its affiliated organizations such as the Armenian Theological Students Aid, Inc. and Haigazian College. When A.T.S.A. was founded in 1944, Henry was instrumental in the establishing of bylaws for the corporation, was its first Chairman, and continues to serve as Chairman, Treasurer and member, encouraging the corporation with his generous donations.

Mr. Henry Gertmenian was keenly interested in the founding and development of Haigazian College, and later on he became an active chairman and member of the Board of Trustees of the College, whose functions were transferred to California in the mid 1960's. During his chairmanship of Haigazian College, Mr. Gertmenian

was instrumental in the recalling of Dr. John J. Markarian to be President of the College. Dr. John Markarian had worked for and developed Haigazian College since its beginning.

We appreciate indeed Mr. Henry Gertmenian's services and we know that he was able to devote the time and the financial contributions because of the complete understanding and cooperation of his wife who was always supportive of his contributions.

Mr. Gertmenian is also a great admirer of the Armenian General Benevolent Union and has served in its central committee as well as local committees generously.

We thank God for Eunice and Henry, children of God and laborers for Jesus Christ whose challenge they embrace bravely and in self-giving ways.



(Seated, left) Henry Gertmenian, past Chairman, at a Board of Trustees' meeting of Haigazian College in 1968.



SUCCESSFUL WIND UP OF SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

DETROIT EVENT (Oct. 28, 1978)

The Banquet in San Diego on December 10, 1978 became the 19th and final event celebrating the Sixtieth Anniversary of the Armenian Missionary Association of America. Of the 10 events reported so far in this publication, 3 were held in South America and 7 in Eastern U.S.; the remaining 11, held in Mid-Western U.S., California and Canada, will be the feature story in this issue. Ambassador Set Momjian brought the message in five of the eleven banquets, Miss Sylvia Kutchukian was the vocal soloist in four, Miss Lucina Agbabian Hubbard in three, and Dr. Chopourian made the pledge appeal in ten of them.

WORCESTER EVENT (Oct. 19, 1978)

(East Coast event delayed for reporting in earlier issue). Through the courteous cooperation of the Rev. Dr. Herald Hassessian, Pastor of the Church of the Martyrs of Worcester, and Church Moderator, Mr. Hurant Tashjian, a private special gifts dinner was held at the Sheraton Hotel. After introductory words by Mr. Tashjian and a message by the Pastor, Dr. Chopourian interpreted the campaign procedures, and the following response, coming up close to \$15,000, was made in pledges and donations:

Anonymous	\$ 300
Miss Anne Demirjian	200
Dr. & Mrs. H.M. Deranian and Family	300
Educational Society of Malatia, Inc.	200
Mrs. Irene Garabedian	500
Rev. & Mrs. Herald Hassessian	100
Mr. & Mrs. George Hoogasian	200
Miss Margaret Kalenian	100
Mrs. Mary D. Kalenian	10,000
Mr. & Mrs. Zarvin J. Kasparian	100
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Markarian	100
Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Markarian	100
Mr. & Mrs. Arsen Najarian	100
Mr. Richard Simonian	500
Mr. Berge Tashjian	300
Mr. & Mrs. Hurant Tashjian	300
Mr. Haig Tufenkjian	100
Mr. & Mrs. Asbed Zakarian	200
1 pledge at	35



Seated at the head table at the Detroit Banquet from left to right: Archie Cherkezian (AMAA Pres.), Mr. H. Arabian (M.C. for the night and Chairman of Banquet), the Hon. Set Momjian, Sylvia Kutchukian and Mr. Edward Mardigian.

Sponsored by the AMAA Detroit Chapter of the Armenian Congregational Church of Greater Detroit, the Banquet in the Church Hall drew a capacity audience of 300, including prominent community leaders. Following the invocation by the Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian (Pastor of the ACC of Greater Detroit) and dinner, Mr. Haig Arabian, Co-Chairman of the Banquet and M.C., distinguished himself with a smooth procedure. Ambassador Set Momjian as Principal Speaker and Miss Kutchukian as soloist, accompanied by Fontaine Laing, excelled themselves. Mr. Edward Mardigian inspired those in attendance with his supportive greetings. Our special thanks to Co-Chairmen, Messrs. Haig Arabian and Walter Philipian and the other members of the Committee who aided in the success of the banquet: Mrs. Armen Kasabach, Mrs. Grace Benglian, Mrs. Rose Janigian, Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Kaye, Dr. Edward Manis, Miss Esther Kupelian, Mrs. Haig Arabian, Mrs. Lucy Philipian, Dr. and Mrs. Harry Yesayan and the Rev. and Mrs. Vahan H. Tootikian. Our thanks to the Rev. Puzant Rubyan, former pastor of the Armenian Congregational Church of Greater Detroit, for his participation with the Benediction.

In response to the appeal by Dr. Chopourian, Executive Director of the AMAA, almost 50,000 were donated or pledged as follows:

Mr. & Mrs. Antablian	200
Mr. & Mrs. H. Arabian	500
Mr. & Mrs. R. Arabian	500
Arm. Cong'l. Church Ladies Aid	500
Arm. Cong'l. Church Miss. Chap.	450
Arm. Cong'l. Church Youth Fellowship	100
Mrs. C. Ayanian	100
Mr. & Mrs. Y. Azadian	100
Mrs. Grace Baylerian	1,000
Dr. & Mrs. G. Belian	500
Mr. & Mrs. S. Benglian	500
Anonymous	100
Ms. C. Demerjian	100
Anonymous	100
Anonymous	100
Anonymous	100
Mr. & Mrs. A. Farajian	500
Ms. N. Gagosian	100
Mr. & Mrs. K. Garabedian	100
Mr. & Mrs. R. Garabedian	100
Anonymous	100
Mr. & Mrs. H. Haroutunian	100
Anonymous	100
Mr. & Mrs. J. Husisian	500
Janet & Tony Janigian	100
Dr. & Mrs. G. Kadian	1,000
Leslie, Mark and Nancy Kadian	75
Mrs. S. Karapetoff	100
Mrs. A. Kasabach	300
A.L. Kassabian	4,500
Mr. & Mrs. V. Kaye	500
Mrs. Z. Keshishian	125
Anonymous	500
Miss E. Kupalian	150
Mr. & Mrs. Z. Lucas	500
Anonymous	1,000
Mrs. D. Marderosian	1,000
Anonymous	1,000
Mrs. V. Minasian	200
Dr. D. Papazian	1,000
Anonymous	500
Anonymous	1,000
Rev. R. Rubyan	100
Mr. & Mrs. A. Sarjanian	100
Mr. & Mrs. E. Sarkissian	100
Mr. & Mrs. A. Serijanian	100
Mr. A. Soghomonian	7,000
Mrs. J.K. Swain	150
Rev. & Mrs. V. Tootikian	500
Anonymous	100
Mrs. F. Varbedian	100
Dr. & Mrs. H.G. Yesayan	20,000
24 pledges under \$100, totalling	750

CHICAGO EVENT (Nov. 5, 1978)

The Armenian Congregational Church of Chicago was host to the Gala Banquet held at the Orrington Hotel in Evanston. Following the Social Hour, dinner commenced after the invocation by the Reverend Barkev Darakjian, Pastor of the host Church, and the program began following the welcome by Dr. Berj Gueyikian, Chairman of the Church's Joint Board. Master of Ceremonies, Mr. Richard Dagdigian, Chairman of the Banquet Committee as well, ran a well-measured, interesting and smooth program. Ambassador Set Momjian and Miss Sylvia Kutchukian made a perfect team touching hearts at the core.

We thank all participants and all the others who helped make this event a success with their labors on the Committee: Miss Shakay Boghossian, Dr. & Mrs. Raffi Hovanessian, Mr. & Mrs. Asdig Koomjian, Miss Esther Koomjian, Mrs. Juliet Vartanian and Mrs. Mary York.

The response to the appeal made to this small community approached the princely figure of \$20,000 as follows:



The Rev. Barkev Darakjian, Dr. Berj Gueyikian, Richard Dagdigian, Sylvia Kutchukian, Set Momjian and Dr. G.H. Chopourian — participants in the Chicago Banquet Program.

Mrs. Yevnige Bailey	\$ 100
Mrs. Rose Barsumian	1,000
Mary & Alfred Bederman	500
Dr. & Mrs. Hagop Boghossian	5,000
Anonymous	500
Rev. & Mrs. Barkev Darakjian	800
Anonymous	200
Dr. H. Doumanian	150
Anonymous	200
Mrs. Lillian Gulesserian	200
Rev. & Mrs. H. Gurlekian	200
Anonymous	500
Rev. & Mrs. Aram Hadidian	100

Dr. & Mrs. Henry Hadidian	1,000
Loutfi & Nouvart Haleblian	500
Dr. & Mrs. R.A. Hovanessian	1,000
Mr. & Mrs. Khoren Hussissian	500
Oscar Isberian & Bros.	100
Mr. Krikor Ishkhanian	100
Mr. Avedis V. Janjigian	200
Dr. & Mrs. K. Vahe Karachorlu	100
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Kazanjian	500
Mrs. Ovsanna Kelikian	500
Mr. William Kirishian	100
Mr. & Mrs. Asdig H. Koomjian	500
Richard H. Koomjian	100
Virginia Koomjian	100
Ladies Aid of the Armenian Cong'l Church	100
Miss Ann Lousin	200
Mr. & Mrs. M.B. Lousin	100
Harry Manushakian	100
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Megurdichian	100
Mr. & Mrs. Garabed Melkonian	1,000
Haig Messerlian	100
Harry & Jean Missirlian	100
Mr. & Mrs. O.M. Norhad	100
Miss Niva Oghigian	100
Anonymous	100
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Simonian	500
Mrs. Zabelle Tepikian	200
Anonymous	100
Mr. & Mrs. Varoujan Vartanian	1,000
Mr. & Mrs. William York	500
17 pledges under \$100, totalling	560

MONTREAL EVENT (Nov. 11, 1978)

A Joint Banquet Committee composed of equal members from the two Armenian Evangelical Churches in Montreal hosted the Gala Banquet at the plush Hilton Hotel in Dorval where over 200 graced the beautiful hall.

The Principal Speaker was Mr. Archie Cherkezian, the President of the Armenian Missionary Association of America, who pinch-hit in the last



Youngest guest at Montreal Special Gifts Dinner.

hours, adding one more record to his selfgiving ways. A large number of beautiful vocal selections were presented by Lucina Agbabian Hubbard. Those participating in the event were: The Reverends A. Kerbabian and H. Agnerian with messages; the Rev. Jerair Bizdikian and Dr. George Ajemian as Co-Chairmen of the Committee and as Co-Masters of Ceremonies; and the Rev. Ralph Watson of the United Church of Canada.

The Banquet was preceded two days earlier with a private dinner at the home of Doctors George and Ina Ajemian where, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, about 65 percent of the total pledging of about \$40,000 for the event was assured.

It was an emotional moment for the Executive Director, Dr. G.H. Chopourian, that a community of fairly new immigrants would respond so very generously. We are so very, very grateful to all who labored hard and, specially, for the inspiration they infused.

Pledge participants were:	
Agnerian, A.	\$ 1,000
Agnerian, Mrs. Victoria	500
Agnerian, Rev. & Mrs. Hovhannes	1,000
*Anonymous	500
Drs. Geo. & Ina Ajemian	10,000
Ajemian, Mr. & Mrs. John	2,500
Armenian Relief Society	100
Anonymous	500
Anonymous	100
Anonymous	100
Anonymous	100
Anonymous	1,500
Bakerdjian, Zaven	100
Basmdjian, Krikor	200
Anonymous	1,000
Anonymous	1,000



THIS IS THE SORROW OF LEBANON

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*Have A Heart — Let Support Flow Like Streams  
of Water*



Contd. from page 11

Anonymous	100
Anonymous	100
Anonymous	100
Anonymous	1,000
Anonymous	1,000
Anonymous	100
Ekmekjian, Aileen & Hratch	100
Anonymous	100
Gahhos, Mr. & Mrs. N.	100
Anonymous	100
Anonymous	500
Anonymous	100
Anonymous	100
Anonymous	200
Anonymous	100
Anonymous	1,000
Jamgotchian, Mr. & Mrs. Vartan	100
Anonymous	1,000
Kassardjian, Khoren	500
Kerbabian, The Rev. & Mrs. Ardashes	500
Anonymous	100
Anonymous	100
Moughannie, Loussin	500
Anonymous	150
Palakian, Mr. & Mrs. Krikor	100
Anonymous	100
Anonymous	1,000
Anonymous	100
Sen, Lourin	100
Shakarian, Mrs. Zabel	100
Tabakian, Sarkis	1,000
Torunian, Mr. & Mrs. Anton	7,500
Anonymous	200
10 Pledges under \$100 totalling	360

\*Anonymous listings are repeated (in alphabetical order of names of pledgers) to enable us to check our records when necessary.

## TORONTO EVENT (Nov. 18, 1978)

The Gala Banquet held at the Sky-line Hotel was a joint celebration featuring the Sixtieth Anniversary of the Armenian Missionary Association of America and the 18th Anniversary of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Toronto.

Mr. Joseph Shanlian was the Master of Ceremonies. Sitting at the head table were the Rev. Dicran Y. Kassouny, M.D.; Rev. and Mrs. Abraham Jizmejian; Mr. and Mrs. Andy Loussarian; Rev. and Mrs. Ardashes Kerbabian; Mr. George Beylerian; and Mr. Robert Garner.

Mr. George Beylerian, Clerk of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America, addressed the audience and read a letter of encouragement from Mr. George Philiposian, Moderator of the AEU-NA. The guest speaker for the evening, the Rev. Dicran Y. Kassouny, M.D., enumerated the works of the AMAA since 1918. Addresses were also made by Mr. Robert Garner; Mr. Andy Loussarian, Chairman of the Church Board; and the Rev. A.K. Jizmejian, Minister of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Toronto.

The 270 guests who attended the festivities enjoyed a delicious meal, numerous Armenian favorites and vocal selections by Soprano Lucina Agbabian Hubbard, and two piano pieces by Mr. Armen Guzelimian from Aram Khachaturian.

On the spot donations and pledges amounted to \$10,000.

(List of pledgers have not been presented yet.)

## LOS ANGELES EVENT (Nov. 18, 1978)

The Banquet, hosted by a Joint Committee composed of representatives from the United Armenian Congregational Church, the Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church, and the Armenian Cilicia Congregational Church, was held at the Ambassador Hotel and dinner was served following the invocation by the Rev. Mardiros Marganian. The ministers of the host churches, the Reverends Vartkes Kassouni and Edward Tovmassian (UACC), Jirair Sogomian (IACC) and Norair Melidonian (ACCC) sat among the general banqueters to give lay persons the greater honor.

Once again, the Honorable Ambassador Set Momjian, as keynote speaker, and Miss Sylvia Kutchukian, as vocal soloist, made a formidable team raising public feeling to a high pitch. Dr. Mihran Agbabian, President of Agbabian Associates, was an eloquent, dignified yet humorous M.C. who was also surprised with the presentation of a plaque for his years of able leadership to the Haigazian College Trustees. Dr. Rendel Levonian was similarly recognized with a plaque from the AMAA for yeoman service to Haigazian College as Chairman of the H.C. Board of Trustees.

The pledging got off to a flying start with two generous donations. The gracious Miss Elise Merdinian pledged



Miss Elise Merdinian, AMAA benefactor who pledged \$250,000 (center), and Dr. and Mrs. M. Agbabian.

\$250,000 and was recognized by applause and a corsage. Dr. and Mrs. Rendel Levonian pledged \$25,000 in addition to their annual donations of \$15,000 for Haigazian College and the Lootfi Levonian Endowment Fund, which capital funds now stand at over \$15,500 and \$22,000 respectively.

The total with large and small donations brings the pledges to about \$360,000 as follows:

Miss Elise Merdinian	\$ 250,000
Dr. & Mrs. Daniel Abdulian	5,000
Anonymous	3,000
Anonymous	3,000
Mr. & Mrs. Hrant Agbabian	2,500
Dr. & Mrs. Mihran Agbabian	5,000
Mr. & Mrs. Arsen Aghazarian	500
Mrs. Aznive Apkarian	600
Mr. Kerop Arakelian	100
Anonymous	100
Mr. & Mrs. Noubar Ashjian	100
Mrs. Beatrice Ashkarian	200
Mr. & Mrs. Vahe Ashkarian	3,000
Mr. & Mrs. Hrair Atikian	100
Mr. & Mrs. George Attarian	500
Anonymous	200
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Bagdassarian	200
Mr. Vahe Baliozian	500
Mr. Vahe Bezdjian	100
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Bezan	100
Mr. Albert Bezjian	100
Mr. & Mrs. Hagop G. Bezjian	1,000
Haig K. Bonaparte	100
Mr. Luther H. Bosnian	1,000
Anonymous	100
Mr. Vahe M. Churukian	100
Mrs. Siran Danelian	500
Mr. Albert Darakjian	500
Anonymous	100
Arsen DeMirjian	100
Mr. & Mrs. Archie Dickranian	1,000
Mr. & Mrs. Qureken Diradourian	100
Anonymous	250
John & Agnes Gabriel	5,000
Alice Gedikian	100
Mr. & Mrs. Sebuhr Gertmenian	200
Anonymous	100
Dr. & Mrs. Glen Grimsley	100
Mr. & Mrs. Antranik Guldalian	100
Mr. & Mrs. K. Guldalian	1,000
Mr. & Mrs. Ohannes Guldalian	100
Krikor Hakimian	100
Anonymous	100
Mrs. Virginia Harikian	200
George Hartunian	250
Gerard Hasserjian	500
Henry K. Hasserjian	200
Mr. & Mrs. Charles H. Hintlian	100
Anonymous	150
Mr. & Mrs. Hagop Ishkanian	500
Mr. & Mrs. Aram Jamgochian	100
Mr. & Mrs. John Jamgotchian	100
Dr. & Mrs. Samuel Jerian	200
Mr. & Mrs. Vahan S. Jouroyan	100
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Kalemkarian	500
Sarkis & Irene Kalfayan & Family	2,000
Anonymous	300
Dr. & Mrs. John Kassabian	1,000
Mr. & Mrs. Mihran Kassabian	1,000
Anonymous	1,000
Rev. & Mrs. Vartkes Kassouni	500



Guests at the Los Angeles Banquet

Anonymous	100
Mr. & Mrs. Haig Keshishian	500
Osheen Keshishian	100
Frank Kevorkian	100
Ken & Thelma Kevorkian	500
Anonymous	100
Anonymous	2,500
Miss Carol Levonian	100
Dr. & Mrs. Rendel Levonian	25,000
Mr. & Mrs. Hagop Loussarian	500
Mr. & Mrs. H. Mandroian	1,000
Anonymous	100
Mr. Steve Mashikian	2,000
Anonymous	200
Mr. & Mrs. John Melikian	100
Harry & Mary Minoogian	100
Jean & Helen Missirian	1,000
Dr. & Mrs. Edward Mouradian and Mrs. Arousiag Mouradian	500
Mr. & Mrs. Dagavarian Nishan	5,000
Mr. Peter Parmaks	200
Anonymous	1,000
Mr. & Mrs. Baruyr A. Poladian	100
Zabel Poladian	1,000
Anonymous	100
Mr. & Mrs. Karl Samuelian	100
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph H. Sanossian	500
Sarian Foundation	10,000
Mrs. Rose N. Shmavonian	100
Rev. & Mrs. Jirair Sogomian	500
Mr. & Mrs. William Soukesian	5,000
Dr. & Mrs. Sarko Tilkian	1,000
Anonymous	100
Agnes & Gene Ward	100
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Zoolalian	250
27 pledges under \$100, totalling	580



Familiar scene at all Banquets — thanking God for His benefits.



A familiar scene at all Banquets: Set Momjian and Sylvia Kutchukian autographing for fans.



Some of the Committee members of the joint 60th Anniversary Banquet of Greater Montreal. From left to right: The Rev. J. Bizdikian, Mrs. J. Ajemian, Mrs. & Mr. S. Hanenian, Dr. George Ajemian, Mrs. A. Noradoukian and Mrs. A. Artinian. Missing: The Reverends A. Kerbabian and H. Agnerian.



**SAN FRANCISCO EVENT**  
(Nov. 19, 1978)

The Gala Banquet sponsored by the Calvary Armenian Congregational Church of San Francisco, California at the Airport Marina Hotel in Burlingame, was organized by an able Committee chaired by Miss Lea Garabedian.

Following a fine dinner, the invocation for which was made by the Rev. V. Galustian, pastor of the sponsoring church, Mr. Edward Medzian, Master of Ceremonies, made maximum use of the effective team composed of Ambassador Set Momjian as Keynote Speaker and Miss Sylvia Kutchukian with her lovely renditions. It was the last of her assigned performances and she made the the most moving rendition! Messages were delivered by the Reverend V. Galustian and Dr. Paul Gertmenian, and the Very Rev. Tashjian offered the benediction.

The Armenian Missionary Association wishes to thank all who worked so hard to make the evening possible and the banquet participants, some of whom had come from as far south as San Jose. After the call for pledging by Dr. Chopourian, pledges soared up to about \$60,000 as follows:

Dr. & Mrs. Zaven A. Adrouny	\$ 5,000
Anonymous	1,000
Mr. & Mrs. Everett H. Berberian	1,000
Mr. Charles Chackerian, Jr.	100
Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence K. Cone	500
Leah & Elizabeth Garabedian	100
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Gertmenian	30,000
Dr. & Mrs. Paul Gertmenian	10,000
Rev. & Mrs. N. Hachian	300
Dr. & Mrs. Puzant Hadidian	1,000
Mr. & Mrs. John Halajian	100
Mr. John K. Haleblan	100
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Iskikian	500
Mr. & Mrs. Luther Izmirian	500
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Janigian	500
Mr. Puzant H. Kashian	100
Mr. Barkev Klijian	100
Anonymous	100
Mr. Azkanaz E. Mackitarian	1,000
Anne Marganian	100
Anonymous	500
Mrs. Stanley Medzian	500
Mr. Harold Philipbosian	500
Anonymous	500
Rev. & Mrs. Assadour Sadakian	100
Mr. & Mrs. Edward J. Shanlian	100
Mr. & Mrs. Puzant Shamlian,	
Margaret & Philip	500
Mr. & Mrs. Toros Shamlian	500
Mr. & Mrs. Ardson Shegoian	1,000
Mr. Milan A. Telian	100
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Yeranian	200
10 pledges under \$100, totalling	360



Distinguished guests and participants at the head table at the San Francisco Banquet: left to right: Rev. & Mrs. Vigen Galustian, Mr. & Mrs. Ed Medzian, Set Momjian, Sylvia Kutchukian, Dr. & Mrs. Paul Gertmenian, the Very Rev. Tashjian and Dr. Chopourian.

**FRESNO EVENT**  
(Dec. 2, 1978)

Co-hosted by the Joint Committee of the Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church and the First Armenian Presbyterian Church the Gala Banquet was held in the PACC Fellowship Hall which was filled with an overflow crowd.

The Keynote Speaker was the Honorable Set Momjian, U.S. Ambassador to the UN, and the Master of Ceremonies was the Honorable Judge Robert Mardikian. Lucina Agbabian Hubbard entertained the guests with her lovely renditions. Other participants in the event were attorney Steve Vartabedian, Chairman of the Banquet Committee who welcomed the guests, and the Rev. Bernard Guekguezian who blessed the tables. Messages were also given by Mr. Archie Cherkezian, AMAA President; Mr. George Philipbosian, International Chairman of the 60th Anniversary Celebrations; the Reverend H.M. Missirlian, Pastor of the host Church who called the AMAA "A Benevolent Rainbow;" and "non-speaking" participants Mr. & Mrs. Enoch Kashishian who contributed grapes for the dinner and for all the 3-day weekend meetings and activities.

The evening was concluded with the benediction by the Rev. Harry M. Missirlian. A most enjoyable time was had by all, and the contributions, following the call to pledging by Dr. Chopourian, were very generous. The



Yervant (right) and Haig Nazaret with their mother, Takouhie. Picture was enlarged and presented to Yervant in recognition of his benevolent arrangement

Board of Directors are most grateful to all those involved in making the Banquet possible, to the participants in the Banquet and to the PACC and its pastor for all the courtesies extended to the AMAA over the Dec. 1-3 weekend of its Annual Meeting.

The AMAA was the recipient of two trusts (one anonymous and the second in negotiation) amounting to \$250,000 and 225,000 respectively. Total amount in pledges neared the \$530,000 mark as follows:

Mr. Yervant Vartanian	\$250,000
Anonymous	
Estate in negotiation	225,000
Judge & Mrs. James Aaron	1,000
Mr. & Mrs. Aggie Agbashian	1,000



Left to right: Attorney & Mrs. Steve Vartabedian; AMAA President, Archie Cherkezian; Keynote Speaker, the Hon. Set Momjian; Master of Ceremonies, the Hon. Judge Robert Mardikian and his wife at the Fresno Banquet.



Board of Directors in session in Fresno in the PACC library. Left to right, seated: Rev. V. Galustian, Rev. H. Missirlian, Dr. G.H. Chopourian, Archie Cherkezian, George Philipbosian, Mrs. Joseph Stein, Jr. Standing: Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian, Edward Janjigian, Set Momjian, Charles Davitian and Dr. Puzant Krikorian.

Mr. & Mrs. John Agbashian	1,000	Mr. & Mrs. Haig Krikorian	100
Mr. & Mrs. Arnie Avedian	6,000	Anonymous	500
Anonymous	1,000	Anonymous	100
Mrs. Elizabeth Bedrosian	100	Anonymous	500
Anonymous	100	Anonymous	1,000
Mr. & Mrs. A. Bogosian	1,000	Anonymous	1,000
Mrs. Julia Boyajian	100	Attorney & Mrs. G. Magarian	1,000
Miss Rita Donabedian	100	Anonymous	250
Mrs. Bertha Emerzian	100	Anonymous	100
Mr. & Mrs. George Esajian	100	Mr. & Mrs. Richard Manoogian	500
Mr. Ken Esajian	100	Mr. & Mrs. Archie Mathson	2,000
Mrs. Martha Ensher	5,000	Mr. & Mrs. Paul Melikian	1,000
Anonymous	100	Mr. & Mrs. Vasken Minasian	500
Mr. & Mrs. Martin C. Garabedian	500	Judge & Mrs. Ralph Moradian	500
Anonymous	1,000	Anonymous	1,000
Mrs. Zara Gazarian	100	Mr. & Mrs. John D. Pakchoian	5,000
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Goorabian	100	Mr. Ed Peters	100
Miss Louise Googioian	500	Mr. & Mrs. Leon S. Peters	5,000
Anonymous	2,000	Mr. & Mrs. Rustigian	100
Mrs. Anne Halford	500	Anonymous	500
Mrs. Mary Haydostian	100	Mr. & Mrs. Elish Shekoyan	100
Rev. & Mrs. Avedis Hovsepian	100	Mr. & Mrs. Haig M. Tanner	2,500
Mrs. Zona Johnson	100	Anonymous	1,000
Dr. & Mrs. Bernard Karian	2,000	Mrs. Nellie Tellalian	200
Mr. & Mrs. Enock Kashishian	1,000	Anonymous	100
Mrs. Florence Keck	100	Mr. John Zerounian	100
Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Kizirian	1,000	10 pledges under \$100, totalling	235

**PHOENIX EVENT**  
(Dec. 9, 1978)

The gathering at the Adams Hotel in Phoenix, Arizona to celebrate the Sixtieth Anniversary of the Armenian Missionary Association of America, though small, brought good results in pledges.

Dr. Rendel Levonian addressed the guests and related recent developments regarding Haigazian College. Good food, enjoyed by all in warm fellowship, was the courtesy of the Misses Atlanta and Margaret Hosepian, the Mehagian Art Galleries and the Mardian Development Company.

The Phoenix Banquet Committee was comprised of Mary and Steve Mehagian, Lucy and Sam Mardian, Stepan Gulesserian, M.D., and Atlanta and Margaret Hosepian.

Pledges came close to \$16,000, as follows:

Mrs. Anna Chakmakjian	\$ 500
Stepan Gulesserian, M.D.	2,000
Mr. & Mrs. Sam Mardian	2,000
Anonymous	10,000
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur S. Mehagian	500
Mr. & Mrs. John LaSpesa	250
Mrs. Isabelle Seely	100
Mr. & Mrs. R.F. Shaffer	100
Numerous pledges in smaller amounts	



Dr. Rendel Levonian addressing guests at the Phoenix Banquet.



Mr. Sam Mardian and Mrs. A.S. Mehagian, pillars of Haigazian College, who supported the Phoenix Banquet.





San Diego Armenian Evangelical Fellowship.

**SAN DIEGO EVENT  
(Dec. 10, 1978)**

San Diego was the scene of a warm and friendly Banquet at the Hilton Hotel, sponsored by a Committee composed of members and friends of the Armenian Evangelical Fellowship of San Diego County, California.

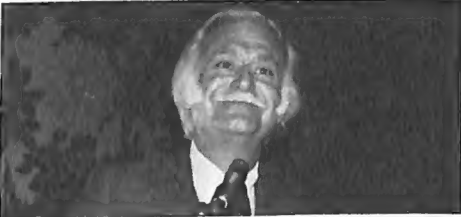
The Rev. Roger Minassian gave the invocation, Dr. Edward L. Alberian was Master of Ceremonies and the Keynote Speaker was Dr. Puzant C. Krikorian, founder of the Christian Medical Center Hospital in Beirut, Lebanon. The guests enjoyed good fellowship and a delicious dinner, and as always, Miss Lucina Agbabian Hubbard presented lovely vocal selections. The other participants were: the Rev. Vartan Hartunian, Pastor of the First Armenian Church of Belmont, Mass.; Dr. G.H. Chopourian, Executive Director of the AMAA; and Ushers George Banerian and Leon Palanjian.

Those who served on the Banquet Committee were: the Rev. G. Diran Minassian, Chairman; Dr. Edward L. Alberian, Vice Chairman; Mrs. Grace Aloyan, Secretary; Mrs. Arpi Banerian, Treasurer; Mr. Leon Palanjian and Mrs. Peggy Sarkissian, Advisors.

Following a pledge appeal by Dr. Chopourian pledges and donations amounted to about \$8,000 as follows:

Mrs. Zartoohy Ajemian	100
Anonymous	500

Anonymous	200
D.E. Beauchamp	500
Mr. Haig & Marion Fermanian	100
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Guzelimian	500
Mr. & Mrs. John Korenian	500
Anonymous	1,000
Rev. & Mrs. Diran Minassian	2,000
Dr. Anoush Miridjanian	500
Anonymous	1,000
Mr. & Mrs. Zaven Sarkissian	100
Mrs. Marguerite Sheets	500
2 pledges totalling	50



Major participants in San Diego Banquet: Committee Chairman, G.D. Minassian; Master of Ceremonies, Dr. Edward Alberian; Keynot Speaker, Dr. Puzant Krikorian.

**SACRAMENTO ARMENIAN  
EVANGELICAL FELLOWSHIP**

It was not found to be very practical to have a Sixtieth Anniversary Banquet in Sacramento, but the Rev. Hovey Hovagimian, pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Sacramento, made personal efforts and three donations were made as endowment funds from that area amounting to \$2,100, as follows:

The Rev. Hovey Hovagimian	\$1,000
In memory of his parents, Mgrdich and Takoohy Hovagimian, for the education of students in Tehran	
Angel Hovagimian	100
In memory of Mgrdich and Takoohy Hovagimian	

Mrs. Eugene Clemence	1,000
In memory of her beloved husband, with the income for theological student training.	

**ADDITIONAL AND/OR NEW  
PLEDGES BY BANQUET-  
CITIES OR STATES:**

CONNECTICUT	
Mr. & Mrs. Arsen Benneyan	\$ 500
Anonymous	100
Mrs. Zabelle Kazanjian	150
Rev. & Mrs. M.M. Koeroghlian	120
Anonymous	100
Anonymous	100

CALIFORNIA (Sacramento)	
Mrs. Eugene Clemence	1,000
Angele Hovagimian	100
Rev. H. Hovagimian	1,000

**TOUR TO EUROPE AND ARMENIA**

REV. G. DIRAN MINASSIAN LEAD

Twenty-one tourists left Kennedy Airport on Saturday, Sept. 16th arriving in Istanbul at dusk Sunday evening for a three-day tour by bus with an Armenian guide who covered St. Sophia, Blue Mosque, Topkapi Palace, Covered Bazaar, Armenian Church, Armenian Patriarchate, Armenian Cemetery and a sail up the Bosphorus. They were received most graciously by Patriarch Shnork Kaloustian in a special audience where they also met an Armenian Protestant Missionary, Vartkes Bogosian, who had a special Gontag from the Patriarch permitting him to speak and conduct Bible studies in any Apostolic Church there. The Gedik Pasha (1850), Immanuel Evangelical and Pera (1846) Armenian Protestant Congregations had a united service and reception in the latter (known as the Mother Church of Armenian Protestants) where the Rev. G.D. Minassian

Mr. Lazarus Martiesian	100
7 pledges under \$100 totalling	131

TEXAS	
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Aijian	\$ 2,000
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas W. Munroe	350
Mr. & Mrs. Vahram V. Rejebian	1,000

VIRGINIA	
Anonymous	2,500

OVERSEAS	
Levon Kalaydjian	100
Takouhi Megerditchian	100

ENGLAND	
Jirair Azirian	1,000
Messrs. Hovsep & Jean Keheyian	1,000

JAPAN	
Dr. Kenje Tanaka	200

SOUTH AMERICA	
Mr. & Mrs. Juan Topalian	3,000
Mr. & Mrs. M. Mardirossian	3,000
Hamparzum & Makrouhi Moumdjian	1,000

TEHERAN	
AMA of Iran	1,000

MIDDLE EAST	
Anonymous	750,000



Top line, first left - Arpiar Gopoian; extreme right - Rev. Minassian, with pastors and a few members of the Yerevan Armenian Evangelical Church.

shared in the service and led the hymn singing. There are 50,000 Armenians still remaining in Istanbul being served by 34 Apostolic, 8 Catholic and 3 Protestant Churches. Many immigrants, Turks as well as Armenians, are coming into the city from the interior. Housing is scarce. Some \$360,000 was collected by the Patriarchate and used to house the Armenians. One whole village came in from Anatolia. One morning Mr. Hrant Guzelian of the Gedik Pasha Church drove Mrs. Mary Ishkanian and Rev. Minassian over the new bridge to the summer camp and buildings of the Istanbul Youth Home at Tuzla, some 20 miles from Istanbul, and later the entire tour group visited the Youth Home in Gedik Pasha Church and observed some 40 children study their Armenian lessons and sing heart-touching songs. Mr. James Koundakjian of the Hollywood United Church was especially moved and uttered a universal wish: "a strong effort should be made to support this vital work."

Next was clean, quiet, orderly Budapest! Here on the first morning, tragedy struck with the sudden death of Jimmy Koundakjian. Contact was made with his widow, Mary, in Los Angeles and a memorial service was held that evening in a Budapest hotel. Three visited the American Embassy to make necessary arrangements, the others, with heavy heart, fulfilled the obligations of the pre-planned sight-seeing tour.

At last the big day, Saturday, September 23rd! Moscow, then on to

Contd. on page 21



## AMAA VICE-PRESIDENT, DR. NORAIR SARIAN, HOSTS RECEPTION FOR LOS ANGELES AREA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

(TOTAL PROVISIONS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR EXCEEDED \$65,000)

A representative group of recipients of AMAA scholarships for fiscal 1978-79 were guests at a reception held on the campus of the United Armenian Congregational Church (UACC) of North Hollywood in November 1978. The recipients thus had an opportunity to meet AMAA Vice-President, Dr. Norair Sarian, one of the principal officers of the Association. The arrangement for such a reception was done under the direction of the Chairman of the Scholarship Committee of the AMAA, Dr. John Keuhnelian.

The total amount of awards in the form of scholarship grants or loans was \$65,400.00. Out of this total, 107 of the more than 150 applicants received scholarship grants totalling \$54,700.00 and \$10,700.00 was given in non-interest bearing loans to 17 of the applicants, a number of whom were also grant recipients. Included in the scholarship grants and loans is \$6,600.00 for 9 persons whose schooling is religious or theological.

The reception began with prayer, followed by an introduction of each one present. The Vice-President, Dr. Norair Sarian, expressed his congratulations to those present for qualifying for aid based on achievement, conduct and need. The Vice-President also revealed that the benefactors were men who had struggled through the difficulties of life and having made good, were inspired



AMAA Vice-President Sarian encourages Ron Toumassian, a ministerial candidate.



Los Angeles area scholarship recipients from left to right, first row: Sarkis Abadjian, Lucy Deukmejian, Avedis Kechichian, Zvart Grdodan, Norair Sarian, M.D. (Vice-President AMAA), Vatche Babikian, Sona Ashkarian, Raffi Zinzalian, second row: Kaspar Ghazarian, Baghdo Khojikian, Luther Sevajian, Avo Zaytounian, Ron Toumassian, Shahe Garabedian, Edward Toumassian, Vasken Demirjian. (Three of the other area recipients missing from the picture: Nancy Kassouni, Karen Kassouni and Garbis Der Yeghiayan).

enough to set aside substantial sums to establish continuity of goodness. The recipients, in their turn, expressed their gratitude, indicating that what was being done to them now was only opening the doors of charitable conduct for themselves.

In addition to the provision of scholarships in the United States, the AMAA has a Child Education Sponsorship Program overseas for which it provides over \$80,000.00 annually. Haigazian College students in Beirut receive \$25,000.00 in scholarships from the Stephen Philibosian Foundation, an affiliate of the AMAA, in addition to the \$100,000.00 annual support by the Haigazian College Trustees, \$25,000.00 of which is specifically assigned for scholarships to Armenian students. This more than a quarter

million dollar scholarship provision has its salutary effects on the nation, naturally.

Applications for scholarships as grants and/or loans are now available for Armenian students for the academic year 1979-80. Prospective applicants should write to the Scholarship Committee, Armenian Missionary Association of America, 140 Forest Avenue, Paramus, New Jersey, 07652 for application forms and additional information. Completed applications must reach the Association's offices by June 15, 1979. *A self-addressed stamped envelope in the value of 28 cents should be included with all requests if prompt response is expected.* No application will be considered which reaches the AMAA Headquarters beyond the deadline date.

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Erevan in an "Armenian" plane with the Captain addressing in Armenian and the Stewardesses speaking Armenian, much to the delight of the tourists. Hustled off from the airport at midnight to the modern ANI Hotel they woke up to the majestic view of Mount Ararat and to the glorious inspiration of the Armenian Evangelical Baptist Church Service. Over 400, men and women on different sides, crowded the sanctuary with pre-service hymn-singing led by a layman out of inadequate hymnals. The zeal of the young people in the choir and the warm devotion of the entire congregation to Christ made a deep impression on the tour members. Under difficult circumstances as they are, their church loyalty made the American-Armenians examine their own faith and their church loyalty. The Reverend Minassian attended the regular Tuesday and Thursday evening prayer meetings, greeting them on behalf of American-Armenians, while others visited Etchmiadzin.

Guide Nellie Malkhasian was with the group at the daily morning and afternoon tours when the early history of Armenia, the ancient ruins of Erebuni, Lake Sevan, the battlefield of Sardarabad against Turkish invasion, the singular Greek Temple at Garni, the three-story rock-hewn monastery of Geghard, the modern Madenataran of treasured manuscripts, Yerevan's Railway Station under the protective wings of the statue of David of Sassoon, the State Theater led to admiration of the skill and workmanship of our Armenian forebears and moderns. Add to all that Zvartnots, the Churches of St. Hripsimeh (618) and St. Gayane (630) erected for the memory of early Christian Martyrs and you have an unbelievable absorption of "Armenianness" in a short 6 days. All that glory was climaxed by an official visit to holy Etchmiadzin and the reception of His Holiness Catholicos Vasken I who graciously autographed cathedral cards for the tourists. Finally, 4 nights in Moscow and 3 in Leningrad exposed the group to beautiful things — palaces, museums, interesting people. However, in the words of the Rev. G. Diran Minassian on thankfully returning home: "Our hearts remained in Armenia, not only because we are Armenians, but because Armenia has a spirit and a lilt not

## UPDATE ON IRAN

News from The Rev. Nerses Khachadourian and Mrs. Arpine Mashigian Aghabegian is to the effect that they have temporarily closed the Gohar Mesropian school in Teheran along with all the rest of the schools. It is gratifying to know, however, that church life as well as Christian youth work have not been hampered. On the 6th of January the community celebrated Armenian Christmas when 110 of the 150 worshipers participated in holy communion.

"I am glad to inform you," says the Rev. Khachadourian, "that among the young people spiritual interest is increasing. Our young people in Majidieh quarter requested Monday evening Bible study sessions. Our church has become a center for Christian fellowship with inter-church services being held every Thursday. Our church is also a haven for consolation."

Mrs. Arpine Mashigian Aghabegian, while regretting that schools are closed, and despite transportation and house heating problems due to lack of petrol, encourages us by her report that children and youth work continue at the Majidieh and Zarkish Christian Youth Centers. Up to 100 children and youth take part in Christian activities of all kinds.

What is so inspiring is that despite their difficulties the Teheran Armenians have not forgotten their brethren in Lebanon for which they have assigned \$2,000 from local donations and requested the AMAA to transmit this amount to Lebanon.

While the field is still open for the dissemination of the gospel, let us give every financial and moral encouragement to these servants who are working among our people in self-giving ways.

Please remember our people in Iran and the tragic situation of the country in your prayers.

found in the rest of the U.S.S.R. In 50 years Armenians have transformed a small, mud hut village into a thriving city of one million, the proud capital of a fast-growing Armenia."

## OBITUARIES



### VICTORIA KESHISHIAN

Mrs. Victoria Keshishian, the last surviving sister of Rev. Aram Hadidian's five sisters, passed on to her eternal rest on Sunday morning, November 19, 1978, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Nevart Hampartzoumian, where she had lived and received loving care of the whole family for many years.

She was born in Aintab, Turkey, in 1888 and was married to Mr. Moses Keshishian, also of Aintab, who died forty years before her.

God had endowed Victoria with great faith, foresight, courage and endurance for life's cruel trials and tribulations. Commendable it was indeed that her widowhood had been able to defeat neither her ambition nor her devotion and sacrifices to educate her children. In addition she also became the exceptional heroine in 1915 when she delivered her family from the tragic genocide. At that time, by her artistically gifted nature, she created the most intricate hand-made needle works, laboring hard day and night, to provide the Aintab Governor's wife's order of this lace work. This service became her family's permit to stay in Aintab, avoiding deportation to the scorching deserts of Der Zore.

Her late husband, Mr. Moses Keshishian, had also become a hero in his own right. He was cited among a few who valiantly fought against the Turks from hazardous positions to save the Armenian population during the unforgettable 1921 war of Aintab against Turkey.

Private funeral services for Mrs. Keshishian were held on Wednesday, November 22, 1978, in the Chapel of Forest Lawn Cemetery of Hollywood



Hills, California with her two minister sons-in-law, The Rev. Hampartzoum Hampartzoumian and The Rev. Youhanna Mugar and a guest minister officiating.

In lieu of flowers, donations were made to the Armenian Missionary Association of America to be added to the previously established "Moses and Victoria Keshishian Memorial Fund". The Fund was established by her daughter, Mrs. Ephronia Mugar.

Mrs. Keshishian is survived by a brother, The Rev. Aram Hadidian and his wife, Gaida, of Indiana; three daughters, Mrs. Nevart and her husband, The Rev. Hampartzoum Hampartzoumian, Mrs. Alice Aram Nourkhanian and Mrs. Ephronia and her husband, The Rev. Youhanna Mugar, all of California; a son, Vahram and his wife, Jennie Keshishian of Torrance, California; nine grandchildren; five great grandchildren; and many nephews and nieces, both in the U.S.A. and abroad.

May her soul rest in perfect peace, and her sweet memory remain forever cherished, for

Even for the dead, we will not bind our souls to grief,  
Death cannot us, for long divide,  
For is it not though the rose, that enchanted our lives here,  
Has blossomed fully on the other side?



#### AGAVNIE HARUTUNIAN

Mr. John Harutunian, son of Agavnie (nee Janjigian) Harutunian, informed the AMAA office in a short note: "My mother went to be with her beloved Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on November 8, 1978."

Because the Institute for Armenian Blind and Deaf was her very special concern, donations in lieu of flowers were assigned in favor of the Institute, of which the AMAA is representative. The donation was sent to the Armenian Missionary Association for transmittal.

The Harutunian family are contributing members of the AMAA. Mrs.

Harutunian is survived by her son, John; niece, Angele (Janjigian) Hovsepian of Belmont; and nephew, Edward Janjigian of Franklin Lakes, N.J. The AMAA extends sympathies to all her immediate kin and close friends.

#### ELIZABETH AVEDISSIAN

Mrs. Elizabeth Najarian Avedissian of Brook St., Rehoboth, Mass., passed away at the age of 78 on May 20, 1978. She was born in Providence, R.I., and was the daughter of Moses and Nonig Najarian. She and her husband, Sahag, who predeceased her, were married for 55 years when he passed away.

Mrs. Avedissian taught school in Rehoboth, Mass., and owned Betty's Bakery for 35 years. She was also employed in the capacity of bookkeeper for the Continental Hotel of Providence, R.I.

She held membership in the AGBU and was past president of the ADL. Mrs. Avedissian was also a contributing member of the Armenian Missionary Association of America.

She is survived by three sisters, Mrs. Mary Garabedian, Westmont, N.J.; Mrs. Gladys Hachian, San Francisco, Cal.; and Miss Pailadzen Alice Najarian, Rehoboth, Mass.

#### SANTOOKHT BAGDIKIAN

Santookht Bagdikian of Long Beach, N.Y. passed away on Dec. 28, 1978 at the age of 87. She and her late husband, the Rev. Dr. Aram T. Bagdikian, resided for 20 years in Worcester, Mass., where he was Pastor of the Armenian Church of the Martyrs from 1937-1957.

Mrs. Bagdikian was born in Zeitoun, Turkey, and most of her family were wiped out during the Turkish atrocities. She and her sister survived, however, and she was raised in an English orphanage and attended school in Marash; she furthered her education at the Armenian Collegiate Institute in Smyrna. Upon graduating as an accredited Normal School teacher, she returned to Marash to teach biology. She came to the United States in 1923 and married Dr. Aram T. Bagdikian, a widower with five children. When he became the Pastor of the Armenian Church of the Martyrs, she became a member of that church, teaching Sunday School and assisting her husband with his pastorate. She was an active member and past president of the Daughters of Vartan.

She is survived by her sons, A. Theodore Bagdikian, Jr. of New York and David D. Bagdikian of Florida; her stepchildren, Ben H. Bagdikian, Calif.; Lydia Bagdikian and Tirzah Juskalian, both of Mass.; Nora Armstrong of Calif.; and a sister, Sira-noosh Sarian of New York.

The Daughters of Vartan offered a special service at her wake, and she was laid to rest on Jan. 4, 1979. The Rev. Herald Hassessian officiated at the services at the Armenian Church of the Martyrs. We wish to extend our sympathies to her family and friends.

#### DR. MIRO K. MIHRAN

Dr. Miro K. Mihran of 898 Ashtree Lane, Schenectady, N.Y. died at the age of 91 on September 21, 1978 at Ellis Hospital after a brief illness.

Born in Divrig, Turkish Armenia on December 25, 1886, he graduated from Anatolia College, Turkey in 1909 and immigrated to the United States two years later. He attended Medical School at the University of Michigan while supporting himself, and obtained his M.D. degree in 1916. He engaged in private medical practice in Detroit until 1932 when he joined the Indian Service, a branch of U.S. Civil Service. From the years 1932 to 1952 he served as physician and superintendent of six hospitals and tuberculosis sanatoria in New Mexico, Arizona and South Dakota. During his tenure he advanced the standards of several Indian Service hospitals, which resulted in their accreditation by the American College of Surgeons. For voluntary service on the Medical Advisory Board from 1943 to 1946, he was awarded the Selective Service Medal by the U.S. Congress. Dr. Mihran retired in 1952 and established residence in Schenectady.

He and his wife, Zaroochi, were married for fifty-five years when she died in 1974. They are survived by a son, Theodore, and his wife, Hermine of Schenectady; a daughter, Alice, and her husband, Kerry Arabian of Walnut Creek, California; five grandchildren; and three great grandchildren, to whom the Association extends its sincere sympathies, fully aware that Dr. Mihran was and will continue to be their inspiration.

Dr. & Mrs. Mihran were members of the Armenian Missionary Association for many years, and very active supporters of the Child Education Program of the Association.

#### EDWARD ZAREH ATHANAS

Edward Zareh Athanas passed away on August 21, 1978 at the Grant Hospital in Chicago. He was buried on August 24, at Mt. Emblem Cemetery, Elmhurst, Ill. The Rev. Darakjian conducted the services, during which he eulogized Mr. Athanas. The following excerpts are from the Rev. Darakjian's loving testimonial:

*"On devoting some moments to recollect the sweet memories that we have had with 'Grandpa,' we shall find in him the truly human being—a dutiful son; a young man actively involved in the well-being of his mother, sister and brother; a conscientious and hard-working man; a faithful and loving husband and a wise step-father who was instrumental in keeping the family in good harmony—well-knit and full of joy."*

*He was born in Bardizag, Turkey, and was the eldest of the three children born to Dr. Garabed and Dirouhy Athanas. Edward was educated at the American High School in Bardizag, and came to the United States in 1910. He settled in Chicago and felt that everything one might need could be found in that city. He acquired a ready-made family of four lovely and respectful children, Marge, Paul, Adrienne and Yvone, when he married Zarouhy Ohanian. His later years were made happier yet by, as he called them, "Grandpa's little dividends:" five granddaughters and one grandson. Grandpa Athanas found his happiness in the happiness and well-being of others, especially of those near to him. He was very mindful of the needs of his church, The Armenian Congregational Church of Chicago, and despite his old age and his dependence on his dear wife, he would never hinder her from carrying on her responsibilities as Deaconess and President of the Ladies' Aid. "Every happy occasion for him was also an occasion to make a donation to the church," testifies Pastor Darakjian. "How is the Congregation?" would be his first question whenever I visited him" continues the Pastor. "Then he would tell me how the church was founded."*

*"Our dear Grandpa is gone now. But he will always be remembered as a person who is worth remembering—an anonymous Christian with a divine grace of goodness in his heart and life. May the Lord bless his memory for each and every one of us. Amen."*

The memorial gifts totaling \$1,900 were donated to the Armenian Congregational Church of Chicago.

Mr. Athanas is survived by his loving wife, Zarouhy; his sister, Ms. Adrienne Athanas; his four children, Marge, Paul, Adrienne and Yvone; and by six grandchildren.

#### HAROLD G. KAZANJIAN

Funeral services for Harold G. Kazanjian, 68, of 487 Three Mile Hill Road, retired executive vice president and treasurer of Peter Paul, Inc., was held on Saturday, November 4, 1978 from the Middlebury Congregational Church with the Rev. Reginald Lancaster officiating. Mr. Kazanjian passed away on November 2 after a lengthy illness. Burial took place in Middlebury Cemetery.

He was born on May 18, 1910, in Dorchester, Mass., son of the late Harry G. and Elizabeth (Aposhian) Kazanjian, and was a graduate of Naugatuck High School, class of 1928, and the Wharton School of Finance, university of Pennsylvania, Class of 1932. He was a member of Salem-Shepard A.F.&A.M., Naugatuck; Scottish Rite Bodies, Valley of Waterbury and the Lafayette Consistory of Bridgeport; a 32nd Degree Mason; a member of the Sphinx Shrine of Hartford and an honorary member of the Directors Association Sphinx Shrine of Hartford.

Mr. Kazanjian was a past president, treasurer and secretary of Sphinx Kaabans Club, a former member of the Middlebury Zoning and Tax Review boards; a member of the Waterbury Country Club; held past memberships in the Easter Seal Rehabilitation Center Board and the Naugatuck Rotary Club. He was also a member of the Middlebury Congregational Church and a firm supporter of the Armenian Missionary Association of America.

Mr. Kazanjian leaves his wife, Zabelle (Nargizian) Kazanjian of Middlebury; three daughters, Mrs. Charles (Faith) Steward of Woodbury, Mrs. William (Diane) Fulks of Phoenix, Ariz., Miss Joyce Kazanjian of Cambridge, Mass.; a brother, Dr. Norton A. Kazanjian of Woodbridge; a sister, Mrs. Eleanor Mardirossian of White Plains, N.Y.; and three grandchildren.

The AMAA wishes to extend sincere sympathies to his beloved wife and family, and commend all to the grace of God and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

#### RICHARD OHANESIAN (1909-1978)

We regret an error in the obituary report in the Nov./Dec. 1978 issue of the News. Richard Ohanesian's date of birth was given as 1889 instead of the correct date 1909.

#### OBITUARIES

The AMAA Board of Directors extend their heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased through the medium of the AMAA NEWS.

Mrs. Elizabeth Avedissian Rehoboth, MA	May 20, 1978
*Mrs. Araxie Sherinian Phoenix, Arizona	July 25, 1978
*Eugene Clemence Sacramento, Calif.	July 27, 1978
Mr. Edward Zareh Athanas Chicago, Ill.	Aug. 21, 1978
*Dr. Miro K. Mihran Schenectady, N.Y.	Sept. 21, 1978
*Dickran H. Keuhnelian Ohio	Fall of 1978
Miss Mary Heghin Fresno, Calif.	Oct., 1978
*Mr. Harold G. Kazanjian Middletown, Conn.	Nov. 2, 1978
*Mrs. Shnorhig H. Ayvazian Larchmont, N.Y.	Nov. 7, 1978
Mr. Mesrop Avakian New York	Nov. 8, 1978
*Mrs. Aghavni Harutunian Newtonville, MA	Nov. 8, 1978
*Kourken Yervant Tourian Stoneham, MA	Nov. 13, 1978
*Mrs. Victoria Keshishian California	Nov. 19, 1978
*William K. Croman Aurora, Oregon	Nov. 22, 1978
*Simon Adanalian Fresno, Calif.	Dec., 1978
*Mrs. Arousiag Shirikjian Beirut	Dec., 1978
*Mrs. Perouz Zartarian Newtonville, MA	Dec., 1978
*Mrs. Elizabeth Parvanian Fresno, Calif.	Dec. 7, 1978
*Mrs. Roupen (Vartouhi) Kayayan Paris, France	Dec. 18, 1978
*Santookht Bagdikian Long Beach, NY	Dec. 28, 1978
*Mrs. Knarig Alberian Pasadena, Calif.	Jan. 23, 1979

\*Signifies that memorials were designated for AMAA





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Paramus, NJ 07652

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(uninsured at purchaser's risk)

**ARMENIA, CRADLE OF CIVILIZATION (#72b)** by David Marsall Lang  
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#72b — Armenia, Cradle of Civilization.....  
#98 — The Armenian Touch.....  
#99b — Sylvia Kutchukian record.....  
#61a — Lucina Agbabian Hubbard record.....  
plus postage & handling.....  
plus insurance where applicable.....  
Total.....\$

Name.....

Address.....  
Street City State Zip

**JULY 4th PICNIC**  
Wednesday

At the Armenian Missionary Assn.  
and  
Armenian Presbyt. Church Complex  
140 Forest Ave., Paramus, N.J.

Enjoy the day with a delicious  
dinner — children's activities —  
door prizes. RESERVE DAY NOW.

**CHRISTIAN 1980 TOUR**

On May 12-27, 1980, The Rev. George Minassian and The Rev. Roger Minasian will lead a Christian Life Tour to the Holy Land, Reformation Lands and the Oberammergau Passion Play. Send for your tickets — Around or below \$2,000 per person first class tour using regularly scheduled airlines. Reserve with \$100 deposit to Rev. G. Diran Minassian, Armenian Evangelical Fellowship of San Diego, 4255 Asher St., San Diego, CA 92110 (714) 276 - 0303.

**COIN BANKS & EASTER APPEAL**

Children will be receiving coin banks, also adults will receive prepaid return envelopes for Easter Offering soon.

**PLEASE RESPOND — We need your prayers and concern.**